

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9635

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 4702

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, KN, KS, US

SUBJECT: MOROCCAN REACTIONS TO PANMUJOM INCIDENT

REF: STATE 211862

1. THE EMBASSY HAS HAD NO UNSOLICITED STATEMENTS FROM GOM OFFICIALS REGARDING THE PANMUNJOM INCIDENT. AN EMBOFF WAS TOLD BY A MEMBER OF THE MOROCCAN DELEGATION TO THE NAC THAT THE KILLINGS HAD NOT BEEN MADE KNOWN IN COLOMBO, AND THUS HAD NOT AFFECTED DELEGATION ATTITUDES ONE WAY OR THE OTHER.

2. THE SEMI-OFFICIAL PRESS, BOTH FRENCH AND ARABIC, CARRIED MOSTLY WESTERN WIRE SERVICE COPY (AFP, REUTER) ON THE PANMUNJOM INCIDENT AND ITS DIPLOMATIC AFTERMATH. OFFICIAL NEWS AGENCY (MAP) COVERAGE OF THE INCIDENT WAS MOSTLY FACTUAL, BUT ONE AUGUST 26 ITEM REPORTED A CHARGE CARRIED IN THE DPRK PARTY ORGAN THAT US B-52'S WERE CARRYING OUT "GRAVE AND PROVOCATIVE MILITARY ACTION" BY OVERFLYING KOREA.

3. HOWEVER, THE OPPOSITION NEWSPAPER L'OPINION, IN A SECTION CALLED THIRD WORLD OPINION, CARRIED A BITTERLY ANTI-AMERICAN VERSION OF THE INCIDENT AND ITS PORTENTS ON AUGUST 24. THE ARTICLE, BY AN ANONYMOUS AUTHOR, DECLARED THAT THE U.S.'S PROFESSED DESIRE TO HELP FIRENDS MAINTAIN THEIR INDEPENDENCE WAS REALLY AN EXCUSE TO FIND A LEGAL PRETEXT FOR THE CONTINUED PRESENCE OF US
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TROOPS IN KOREA. THE WRITER CHARGED THAT THE TWO SLAIN AMERICANS

HAD DIED "IN OBSCURE CIRCUMSTANCES," AND THE US WAS ACCUSED OF
HAVING CREATED VIOLATIONS AND PROVOKED INCIDENTS IN THE DMZ
I.E., WITH THE PREMEDITATED AIM OF CREATING FAVORABLE CIRCUMSTANCES
FOR A NEW US INTERVENTION AGAINST NORTH KOREA.

4. COMMENT: THERE IS NO EVIDENCE THIS VIEW HAS ANY SIGNIFICANT
SUPPORT IN MOROCCAN CIRCLES, OFFICIAL OR OTHERWISE. IN FACT,
NORTH KOREA IS THE BADBOY HERE FOR ITS RECOGNITION OF THE SAHARA
ARAB DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC.
ANDERSON

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